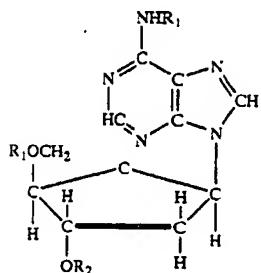


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-55 (cancelled).

56 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxyadenosine, having the formula

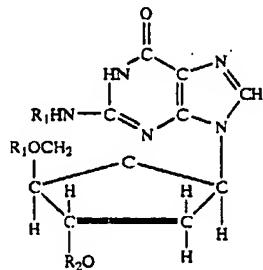


wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R₁, R₂, and R₃ are H, and where R₃ is not H, then R₁ and/or R₂ may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

57 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxyguanosine having the formula

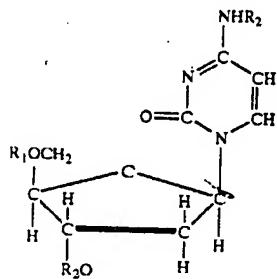


wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, phenylalanine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R₁, R₂, and R₃ are H, and where R₃ is not H, then R₁ and/or R₂ may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

58 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxycytidine, having the formula

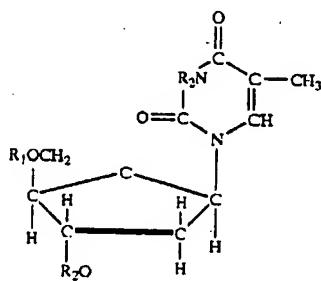


wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R₁, R₂, and R₃ are H, and where R₃ is not H, then R₁ and/or R₂ may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

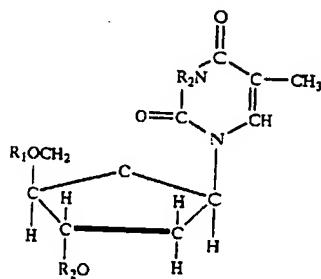
59 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R₁ is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 15 or 17 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R₂ and R₃ are H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

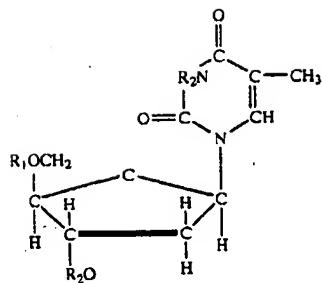
60 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R₁ is H, R₂ is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 13 or 15 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R₃ is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

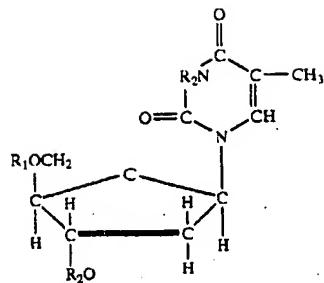
61 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and each is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 5 to 22 carbon atoms;
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R₃ is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

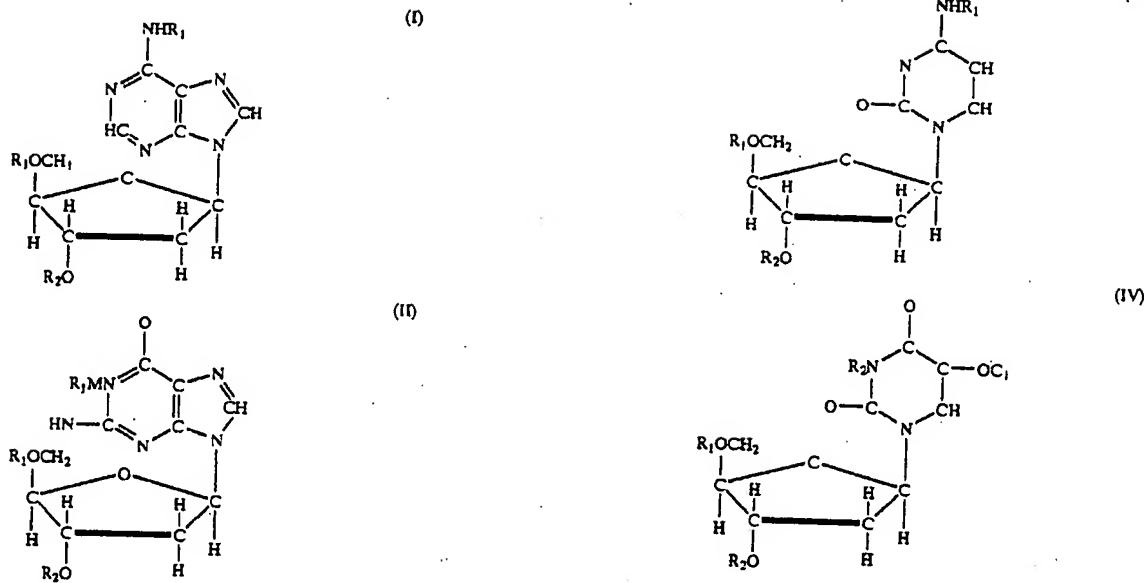
62 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and each is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 2 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R₃ is an acyl group derived from an optionally substituted benzoyl or heterocyclic carboxylic acid that is substantially nontoxic, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

63 (New). A method for treating or preventing radiation-induced cellular damage or sunlight-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of each of at least two compounds selected from at least two of the groups of compounds having formulae



wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are the same or different and each is H or an acyl group derived from a carboxylic acid, provided that at least one of said substituents R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 on each of said groups of compounds is not hydrogen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.